

NEWPORT BEACH HARBOR COMMISSION MINUTES
City Council Chambers
April 13, 2011

CALL TO ORDER

6:00 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Duffield, Rhyne, McIntosh, West and Rodheim were present.
Commissioners Lawrenz and Valdes were absent.

Council Liaison: Nancy Gardner

Staff: Manager Chris Miller

MINUTES

Motion by Commissioner McIntosh, seconded Commissioner West, to approve the March minutes: All ayes, motion approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None.

ACTION & APPEAL ITEMS

ITEM #1

Subject: Harbor Speed Limit Exception – Proposed Conceptual Draft

Abstract: The Harbor Commission's Code Enforcement Subcommittee has evaluated the need for a change in the harbor's speed limit during organized, permitted, racing competitions and related practice sessions, and the subcommittee is proposing a conceptual draft proposal for review.

Discussion: Commissioner Rodheim said this was long overdue.

Bruce Ibitson (resident and rower in the harbor) was thankful but questioned how this would affect human powered vessels. It would be difficult for a single paddler and rower. There should be education through the program.

Tony Musolino of the Association of Orange Coast Yacht Clubs was supportive of the proposal.

Paul Prelo (rower, OCC coach) urged the Commission to reconsider a permitting process. He believes the motivation is to eliminate boater wakes, so consider looking at a wake limit? The permit process makes everyone join a membership type program which doesn't really solve the problem. Are we looking at speed or wakes?

Commissioner Rodheim recognizes human powered vessels for exercise, not as an event. The caveat is safety, not wake. The language has to be a bit broader and that more work needs to be done.

Commissioner Rhyne didn't want the law to be subjective.

Commissioner Rodheim suggested pulling out the human powered craft out of the ordinance.

Billy Whitford (Newport Aquatic Center) said that the rowing community tries hard to police themselves. He thinks the proposed draft language as it stands is perfect. He noted that

no single paddler has been stopped for speeding in the harbor as of yet. He noted that the Harbor Patrol has to respond if anyone complains about someone speeding in the harbor, and they could stop a regatta or a practice session. What about the rental “sea bikes” which are human powered. When Commissioner Rodheim asked him about the coaching boats, Mr. Whitford suggested adding an exception to the proposed language, like “assist vessels” or “support craft.”

Commissioner Duffield noted that when there are 1-2 people in the coaching boats, there is little wake. When there are 3-4 people, as is often the case, a bigger wake is thrown.

Council Liaison Gardner didn’t want to complicate things with the wake. She liked it as it was written.

Action: Commissioner Rodheim made a motion to accept the proposed draft language with the addition of “support vessels” into paragraph 7. Commissioner West seconded. All ayes, motion carried.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

Harbor Guide Committee: Commissioner West noted that he received the suggested changes to the Guide from the Commission, Harbor Resources and others, and that the changes were minimal. He would like to make these changes for a web based update, with a hard copy hopefully in the future. This could be agendized for May. Commissioner Rodheim did not recommend selling ads to pay for the update – it would change the overall feel and nature of the Guide.

Harbor Visioning Task Force: Commissioner Rodheim gave a recap of the “Bubble Study” for Lido Marina Village and the Mariner’s Mile area. He noted that the Mayor wanted him to present this same study at the upcoming April Tidelands Management Committee.

COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT:

Council Member Gardner thought that the Harbor Commission should have at least one of the Commissioners apply for the Citizens Advisory Panel for the Tidelands Management Committee. This committee is working on developing a Vision Statement.

She noted that the Coastal Bay Water Quality Committee will be ready for a joint Harbor Commission meeting in May.

She also noted that the “One and Done” idea for funding the Lower Bay was not preferred by our Washington DC lobbyist at this time. The Tidelands Management Committee is looking at raising revenues for the harbor, and said that she liked John Corrough’s recent suggestion of developing a non-profit for the Lower Bay similar to the Lower Bay Conservancy.

HARBOR RESOURCES UPDATE – Chris gave a PowerPoint presentation on harbor updates. *The update is posted at <http://www.newportbeachca.gov/index.aspx?page=1658>*

PUBLIC COMMENTS

RECOMMENDED TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS:

- Mooring Wait List
- NOAA Update on Mooring Field Realignment
- Dinghy Dock at Lido Bridge
- Bilge/pumpout stations

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:
ADJOURNMENT

Wednesday, June 15, 2011 – NOTE: Different week than usual.